

Y is alkyl or haloalkyl having 1 to about 10 carbon atoms, alkenyl having 2 to about 10 carbon atoms, alkynyl having 2 to about 10 carbon atoms, aryl having 6 to about 14 carbon atoms, N(Q₁)(Q₂), O(Q₁), halo, S(Q₁), or CN;

each q₁ is, independently, from 2 to 10;

each q₂ is, independently, 0 or 1;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

p is from 1 to 10; and

q₃ is from 1 to 10 with the proviso that when p is 0, q₃ is greater than 1.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to reflect the claim of priority. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-13, 18, and 21-32 will be pending. These claims find support throughout the specification and claims as originally filed.

Applicants have amended the specification to specifically identify sequences with SEQ ID NOS. Applicants have further amended the specification to update SEQ ID NOS and to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

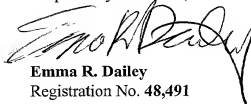
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **“Version with markings to show changes made.”**

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PATENT

Applicants respectfully request that this amendment be entered and that claims 1-13, 18, and 21-32 be allowed at this time.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

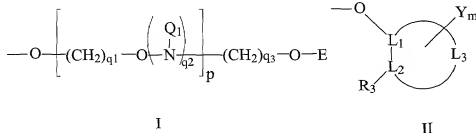
Please cancel claims 14-17, 19-20 and 33-36, without prejudice, and amend claims 1 and 4 as presented below:

1. (Amended) An oligonucleotide comprising a plurality of nucleotides, wherein:

a first portion of said plurality of nucleotides have B-form conformational geometry and are joined together in a continuous sequence, at least two of said nucleotides of said first portion being ribonucleotides [or arabinonucleotides]; and

a further portion of said plurality of nucleotides are ribonucleotide that have A-form conformation geometry and are joined together in at least one continuous sequence.

4 (Amended). The oligonucleotide of claim 1 wherein each nucleotide of said further portion, independently, is a 2'-fluoro nucleotide or a nucleotide having a 2'-substituent having the formula I or II:



wherein

E is C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, N(Q₁)(Q₂) or N=C(Q₁)(Q₂);

each Q₁ and Q₂ is, independently, H, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, dialkylaminoalkyl, a nitrogen protecting group, a tethered or untethered conjugate group, a linker to a solid support, or Q₁ and